

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /147 W

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P R 291350Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8692

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USUN NEW YORK 424

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO

SUBJ: MODERATE TURNOUT IN PORTUGAL'S NO-CONTEST ELECTION

REF: LISBON 3952

SUMMARY: IN WAKE OF ELECTION-EVE ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND  
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STRONG PLEA BY PM CAETANO FOR BIG TURNOUT, OVER HALF OF

PORTUGAL'S REGISTERED VOTERS WENT TO POLLS OCTOBER 28 TO VOTE FOR SLATES OF PRO-GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES. FINAL TABULATIONS NOT YET AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY

1. ANTI-ELECTION SABOTEURS WENT INTO ACTION, AS WIDELY EXPECTED, JUST PRIOR TO POLLING DAY. CHILD WAS KILLED IN BOMB EXPLOSION APPARENTLY STEMMING FROM BUNGLED SABOTAGE OPERATION IN BARREIRO OCTOBER 25 (LISBON 3955); POWERFUL EXPLOSION DESTROYED PART OF MILITARY HEADQUARTERS OF OPORTO DISTRICT EVENING OCTOBER 26 WITHOUT CAUSING CASUALTIES; BOMB FOUND OCTOBER 27 IN HEADQUARTERS LISBON MILITARY REGION AND DEFUSED SUCCESSFULLY. NO GROUP HAS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THESE ACTS, BUT THEY LIKELY WORK OF EXTREME LEFT-WING REVOLUTIONARIES BENT ON PROTESTING "ELECTION FARCE."

2. PM CAETANO MADE SHORT BUT TOUGH TV SPEECH EVENING OCTOBER 26, BLASTING CDE OPPOSITIONISTS FOR EXPLOITING ELECTION PERIOD FOR UNRELATED PURPOSES AND THEN PULLING OUT, PERMITTING ASCENDANCY OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE, AND IDENTIFYING WITH INSURGENT MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS, PARTICULARLY PAIGC. CAETANO APPEALED FOR LARGE TURNOUT IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT, SAYING "PORTUGAL IS AT STAKE" AND ARGUING THAT THE GOP NEEDS CLEAR EVIDENCE TO CONVINCE PEOPLE HERE AND ABROAD THAT GOP "HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SPEAK FOR THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE."

3. ELECTION DAY BROUGHT PERFECT WEATHER IN CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL AND FAIRLY HEAVY TURNOUT AT THE POLLS IN MOST PLACES. CROWD GATHERED TO WATCH CAETANO VOTE IN MID-MORNING AND CHEERED HIM WITH ENTHUSIASM WHEN HE APPEARED. ASKED IF VOTE WOULD BE HIGH, PM QUIPPED WEATHER SO FINE SOME VOTERS MIGHT GO HUNTING INSTEAD. MINOR ELECTION DAY DISTURBANCES IN LISBON AND MARINHA GRANDE FAILED DISTURB VOTING. OF PORTUGAL'S 2,091,000 REGISTERED VOTERS, PERHAPS TWO-THIRDS VOTED. HIGHEST TURNOUTS WERE IN RURAL DISTRICTS. LISBON CITY FIGURE WAS 52.5 PERCENT. VOTING WAS ORDERLY. EMBOFFS NOTED FEW YOUNG PEOPLE AT POLLS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. ANALYSIS AND COMMENT ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND VOTE FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. POST

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, PO  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC BERN BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN LONDON LOURENCO MARQUES LUANDA  
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